AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters and events occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information needed by the labor and trade union movement.

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WHOLE NO. 1301 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1936 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 26, NO. 12

Too long, that some may rest,
Tired millions toil unblessed.
—William Watson.

Federal Regulation of Maximum Hours, Minimum Wages and Child Labor Urged

Industrial Council Holds These Measures Necessary to Prevent Unfair Competition and Low Consuming Power.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Strong recommendations that Congress be requested to enact legislation creating commissions to determine maximum hours and minimum wages and to abolish child labor in each industry featured a report adopted by the Council for Industrial Progress here and made public by Industry Coordinator George L. Berry after submitting it to President Roosevelt. The report was prepared by the council's Committee on Maximum Work Week, General Wage and Child Labor.

In espousing such recommendations the report asked that Congress should give management and labor equal representation, which has been the basis of the entire organization and operation of the industry council. Commissions would be empowered to determine the fields covered by each industry.

The committee, headed by A. Cosgrove, of Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, N. J., representing management, and John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, representing labor, stressed the necessity of work for the jobless and opposed lengthened hours and reduced wages.

Importance of Wages and Hours

"The flow of raw materials, supplies, and products of industry within and between the several States of the United States constitutes a continuous stream of commerce," the report said.

"Employment and wages of labor are vital factors contributing to the economic stability and purchasing power of our Nation.

"While your committee in its recommendations deals specifically with minimum wages, it feels called upon to state that general wages should have a sound foundation above which industry should, through initiative, ability, training and organization be able to individually or collectively elevate wages commensurate with their worth.

"Accordingly, it is the opinion of the committee that findings and considerations of the problems assigned to this committee justify the following conclusions:

"That wages of labor constitutes a vital factor of the national economy.

"That wages are a major factor in the productive processes, contributing to fair competition.

"That hours of employment are a major factor in the productive processes, contributing to fair competition.

"That approximately 25 per cent of the employable persons are unemployed at the present time. This constitutes a most serious obstacle to the economic stability and industrial tranquility within these United States.

"That in view of the present tendency toward lengthening working hours and reducing wages, your committee believes that these conditions create unfair competition, unemployment and low consuming power.

Child Labor

"That unregulated employment of children in industry is conducive of unfair competition, and harmful to the general welfare of the Nation.

"That recent records showing that, following the abolition of nation-wide prohibition of child labor under the National Recovery Administration, child labor has increased by a considerable percentage, indicating a trend definitely toward employment of children, which denies to adults the opportunity for employment."

Federal Commission Recommended

Basing its action on these conclusions, the committee declared "that long working hours, inadequate wages and employment of children in the industry creates unfair competition in the flow of commerce in and between the several States of the United States and is detrimental to the general welfare of industry and the Nation; and that Congress should create commissions empowered to regulate such unfair and detrimental practices.

In regard to child labor, the commission created by Congress would be given authority to "regulate the minimum ages at which children may be employed in commerce, manufacturing, mines, or agriculture."

The commission on minimum wages would have authority to determine a minimum wage rate to be paid by each of the several industries, the commission to determine the field covered by each industry."

The commission on maximum hours would have authority to determine the maximum number of hours per week to be worked in each of the several industries," with the proviso that "in any instance where the hour week shall have been greater than the hour week established by the commission for that industry an adjustment, in the wage rate shall be made so that there shall be no reduction in the earnings of the worker."

Committee Members

In addition to Mr. Cosgrove and Mr. Frey the members of the Committee on Maximum Work Week, General Wage, and Child Labor are: David Sarnoff, secretary, Chemical Manufacturers' Association of U. S. A., New York City; Thomas Glasgow, president, National Leather and Equipment Wholesalers' Association, Charlotte, N. C., and W. S. Gorsuch, secretary, Horse Equipment Company, Hershey, Pa., for management, and F. A. Tobin, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America, Washington, D. C.; J. W. Williams, Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C., and James Duffy, president of the Brotherhood of Operative Potters, East Liverpool, Ohio, for labor.

Five members of the council filed a dissenting report expressing the view that the majority had not given due consideration to the constitutional limitations on Federal and State legislative power. These members were: D. G. Sherwin, vice president, Caterpillar Tractor Company, Peoria, Ill.; Albert E. Sawyer, Deming Manufacturing Company, Framingham, Mass.; S. F. Voorhees, architect, New York City; F. A. Jenkins, Twentieth Century Motor Car Corporation, and Tom Glasgow, Motor and Equipment Wholesalers' Association, Charlotte, N. C.

UNIONISTS VICTIMIZED BY BALTIMORE CONCERN

Maryland Labor Commissioner Says Foster Brothers Also Cut Wages and Lengthened Hours.

Baltimore, Md. (AFLNS). — Foster Brothers Manufacturing Company, Inc., manufacturers of bedding here, have discriminated against employees because of their union affiliation, according to a report on the strike of the company's employees made by Charles S. Warner, Maryland Commissioner of Labor Statistics. The strike has been in effect since January 16.

After an investigation of the controversy, Commissioner Warner said that approximately 90 employes struck following the lay-off or dismissal "without adequate reason" of a number of workers who were officers in the newly organized Mattress Makers' Union No. 20137, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

In view of the fact that the dismissed employes had been employed by the company for periods ranging from one to 17 years, Commissioner Warner said it would appear that such a lay-off or dismissals could be attributed to the fact that these employes were dismissed due to their activities in a union organization."

Other elements in addition to discrimination against unionists involved which precipitated the strike, the Commissioner said, was an increase of the work week from 40 to 48 hours, which meant a wage cut of approximately 10 per cent time workers, and the lack of sanitary facilities and safety provisions in the factory.

The Commissioner pointed out that the National Labor Relations Board had found the company guilty of violating the Wagner Act which, he said, guarantees workers the right to organize and bargain collectively and had persistently refused to arbitrate the controversy, adding:

"The firm has repeatedly refused to rehire a number of these striking employes who voluntarily reapplied for their jobs in an effort to relieve the acute sufferings of their families, some having been evicted from their homes, the most frugal having had but small savings put aside. The firm has been unmovable. They have refused to arbitrate in putting upon relief a number of persons who have been, in the only 'course known to them to make an adequate salary in order that they would not have to become public charges."

From the facts revealed by his investigation Commissioner Warner said the firm is to be blamed for the condition continuing to exist and in contributing to the notable addition to the factory adjustments which might have the effect of producing mutual agreement between employer and employes."

ROOSEVELT SIGNS LEAVE BILLS FOR U. S. WORKERS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The long uncertainty regarding the annual and sick leave to which Government employes are entitled was settled when President Roosevelt signed two measures on this subject recently enacted by Congress.

The measures, which are retroactive from last January 1, fix the annual leave at 26 days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, and the sick leave at 15 days.

It will be possible for employes to let their annual leave accumulate up to 60 days and sick leave up to 90 days.

The two bills apply to nearly all civilian Federal employes, wherever stationed, and to District of Columbia employes except school teachers and librarians. In the postal service the bills apply to the classified employes and those in the mail bag equipment shops.

The bills also apply to the employes of corporations created by Congress if they are either wholly owned or controlled by the Government. This provision was included to cover the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The question of compensation for overtime work was not settled. It was the wish of the House managers at the annual leave bill to include a provision for additional leave in direct proportion to overtime, but following an objection by the Senate conferees it was agreed to make a further study of this problem.

Although the annual leave measure specifically limits permanent employes to that of 26 days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, a provision of the law allows temporary employes as much as the equivalent of one day's leave for 12 suits from the stipulation that temporary employes shall receive nothing at the end of their rates of compensation "who are allowed 2½ days leave for each month of actual service. Over a period of a year this would amount to 30 days.

Claude Ramspeck, president of the American Federation of Government Employes, made the following statement regarding the enactment of the leave bills:

"The American Federation of Government Employes desires to publicly acknowledge the debt of gratitude of employes of the United States Government to the President and to the members of Congress on the occasion of the final enactment of the Ramspeck leave bills.

"We also acknowledge deep debt to the American Federation of Labor and President Green for active support of the bills.

"These bills mean sick leave for all, which is so essential to social security. They mean vacations for all, which will contribute to the efficiency of human and better and more efficient work. They mean a definite advance toward the abolition of the inequitable practice of overtiming. They mark the first step in the reduction of hours of labor of thousands of Government employes who are now working up to 84 hours a week."

Eight San Francisco Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Concerns Sign Pact With Eight National Unions

San Francisco, Calif. (AFLNS).—J. N. Davis, assistant international president of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, announced here that agreements have been signed between the boiler makers and seven other shipbuilding companies in the dry-dock and shipbuilding concerns in the San Francisco Bay area.

In addition to the Boiler Makers the following national unions signed the agreement: Pattern Makers' League of North America; International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers; Boiler Shop Workers' International Association; United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The following drydock and shipbuilding companies signed the agreement: Moore Dry Dock Company; Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation; Pacific General Engineering and Dry Dock Company; Eureka Boiler Works; Columbia Machine Works; Pacific Dry Dock and Repair Company; United Engineering Company, Ltd.; Matson Navigation Company, Maintenance Department.

Mr. Davis, who acted as spokesman for the unions, said the agreement is for one year and that this is the first time such an agreement has been negotiated in the San Francisco Bay area.

U. S. GOVT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE TRADE HIT

Industrial Council Visions Socialized Industry and Destruction Of Profit System in Expansion Of Federal Enterprise.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Prompt withdrawal of the Government from competition with private enterprise except under special conditions where the public welfare is vitally concerned was recommended by the Council for Industrial Progress in a report submitted to President Roosevelt. The recommendation was made on the belief that such withdrawal would reduce the Government's expenditures and increase its revenues.

Coupled with the statement that "the Government's true function is to protect and promote the economic activities of its citizens, not to supplant them," the committee recommended that the Government should pursue "the sound policy of using to the maximum the facilities of private enterprise," adding:

"Under normal economic conditions Government competition with private enterprise is conducive to the destruction of the free enterprise profit system and contributes to the development of a socialized industry."

The council, headed by Industry Coordinator George L. Berry, established a joint committee of representatives of industry and labor to be named to study the subject of Government competition. E. E. Pierce, of Pierce, Proctor, New York City, is management chairman of the group, while T. A. Rickert, president of the United Garment Workers of America, is chairman for labor.

Field for Government Enterprise

Confining its studies entirely to direct Federal competition with private enterprise, the committee established the following conditions under which such competition is justified:

"1. Where necessary to assure adequate preparation for, and creation of, the facilities for national defense. . . .

"2. For the conservation of natural resources.

"3. When for any reason private enterprise fails to conduct needed scientific research and exploratory activities to advance industrial development in the interest of public health and safety.

"4. When for any reason private enterprise fails to render a service necessary for the general welfare."

Relying upon the anti-trust laws to prevent exploitation of the public, the report pointed out that Government intrusion into private business fields was not justified to serve this purpose.

Government Competition Condemned

The Government's policy of indirect competition on the construction industry was cited as an example of its far-reaching influence in related manufacturing industries, suppliers of materials, the professions, skilled and unskilled labor.

"The intrusion of Government into competitive fields has been carried to such an extent in situations where the public welfare can only thus be served, is wholly destructive," the report said. "It invites and cultivates a growth of bureaucracy. It necessitates increased Government expenditure while decreasing tax revenues and it operates to dry up the sources of Government support.

"Once embarked upon this course, the Government is placed in the difficult position of destroying the agencies the functions of private enterprise which its competition has destroyed, or of withdrawing completely from the devitalized fields of private activity.

"The committee has been impressed because of the human equation operating through the entirely natural desire of the Government to improve the conditions of those it serves. Government has wisely tends to expand to larger and more formidable proportions."

In addition to Mr. Proctor and Mr. Rickert the members of the committee are: Fred Bowe, of W. L. Johnson Construction Company, Hicksville, Ohio; Robert B. Ennis, of the Arundel Corporation, Baltimore, Md., for management; William A. Calvin, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.; Harvey Fremming, president of the Iron Workers, Washington, D. C., and M. J. Gillooly, president of the Flint Glass Workers' Union, Toledo, Ohio.

HOLC PROGRAM PROVIDES HUGE SUM FOR WORKERS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The Home Owners' Loan Corporation had let reconditioning contracts up to February 20 totaling $72,000,000, with an additional $4,000,000 then pending. An announcement said that the number of over $79,000,000, about 75 per cent to workmen and the balance to producers of building materials, contractors and transportation services, will have been made with the installation practice of overtiming. They mark the first step in the reduction of hours of labor of thousands of Government employes who are now working up to 84 hours a week."

It is plain that Mr. Liggett limited his the-depression-is-over statement to people who do not earn their living by the sweat of their brow.

Undisputed figures reveal that in the last half of 1935 the profits of one hundred and twenty large corporations increased 31 per cent. A recent publication shows that stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange have increased in value thirty-one billion dollars during the last three years. Unadulterated by wholesale prosperity has thus hit stockholders who own the nation's industrial and commercial lits. But to declare "the depression is over" in the United States when we have an army of over twelve million six hundred thousand jobless workers validly seeking employment and their dependents suffering for the comforts of life is an exaggeration not based on the actual condition of the people generally.

Such a statement would be received with applause at a convention of stockholders, bondholders and business men, but if made before an audience composed of the masses of the American people, including low-paid wage earners and the unemployed army the enthusiasm would in all likelihood not raise the roof.

EDITORIALS

LOWEST BIDDER POLICY INJURES LABOR

The urgent need for promptly enacting the bill sponsored by Senator Walsh and Representative Healy now before Congress authorizing the Government to include fair work conditions in Government contracts is well illustrated in the recent attempt of the Quartermaster General of the War Department to accomplish this object indirectly.

In recent bids for 500,000 pairs of shoes for the Army, was bidding in accordance with the lowest bidder policy, obtained a contract for the entire quantity on a delivery schedule that required the operation of his plant twenty-four hours a day.

In a memorandum on the matter the Quartermaster General said "the price was so low" that the contractor found it "necessary to reduce the pay of his employes working on this contract," adding:

"Such a condition would appear to be undesirable and might well result in other bidders becoming disgusted with their attempts to obtain Army business to the extent that they will cease to submit bids on our requirements which would leave our sources of supply limited and in case of a national emergency we would not have a field sufficiently familiar with the conduct of Army shoes to meet our requirements."

Confronted with the Federal law which requires that contracts for supplies or services on behalf of the Government must, with certain limited exceptions, be let to the lowest bidder, the Quartermaster General conceived the idea of ameliorating labor conditions in contract work for the War Department by means of an inspection rule. He suggested the insertion in invitations for bids for the purchase of supplies a stipulation that in factories which require the presence of a Government inspector no manufacturing work shall be done unless the inspector is present, with the mandatory provision that inspectors will be assigned to the contractor's factory only during the regular eight-hour work day, schedule or shift generally recognized by the trade, and with only four hours on Saturday."

This memorandum was referred to Judge Advocate General A. W. Brown for an opinion as to the legality of the proposed new specification for contracts. He declared that while the proposed provision is labeled "inspection," it is obvious from its context and from the statement of the Quartermaster General that it is designed to regulate hours of labor on Government supply contracts."

Referring to the Federal lowest bidder statute as binding, the Judge Advocate General ruled that "in the absence of authorizing legislation" the provision should not be included in any supply contracts unless the Secretary of War determined that the limitation "would be in the interest of the Government as a contractor and not result in increasing the cost to the Government beyond compensating advantages."

Under the Walsh-Healy Bill the Government is given statutory authority to include in contracts for Government supplies provisions that will eliminate the sweatshop practices mentioned by the Quartermaster General which contractors impose on workers and will require them to observe fair labor conditions.

OVER FOR WHOM?

Louis K. Liggett, president of the United Drug Company, is optimistic. He declares "it is safe to conclude that the depression is over." In other words, prosperity is here instead of just around the corner.

Evidently Mr. Liggett excludes a very large number of working men and women from his survey.

According to the reliable estimates of the American Federation of Labor there are now over twelve million six hundred thousand able-bodied employed adults in the United States, three million five hundred thousand of whom would be on relief rolls if they did not have temporary "subsistence wage" jobs under the Works Progress Administration financed by the $4,000,000,000 work relief program enacted by the last Congress. In addition to these twelve million six hundred thousand unemployed adults there must be taken into consideration their dependents, millions of whom are compelled to live out a precarious existence on relief doles.

So far as the employed workers are concerned, industrial employers reduced wage rates one cent per hour during the last half of 1935 and increased the length of the average work week three hours, which made it possible to throw an additional million workers into the unemployed army.

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New Judicial Body For Trade Is Urged

Industrial Council Asks Transfer Of Federal Trade Commission's Power to Independent Group With Labor Representation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A recommendation that the anti-trust activities of the Federal Trade Commission, if that body is continued, be limited to the functions of investigation and prosecution and that its judicial functions be transferred to an independent group was included in a report approved by the Council for Industrial Progress and made public by Major George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation, following its submission to President Roosevelt.

Holding that there are many difficulties involved in vesting both administrative and judicial power in a single body the report said the new body should be flexible and might well include in its personnel, besides incumbents with legal training, lay representatives of labor and the consuming public and should have jurisdiction, but not to the exclusion of the courts, in cases instituted either by the Federal Trade Commission or by the Federal anti-trust laws.

The committee assigned by the Council to study the desirability of amending Federal Commission Act was headed by Robert A. E. Cook, of Philpps, Durgin & Cook, Inc., representing management, and Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor, representing labor.

Ban On Unfair Work Conditions

The committee found that the present anti-trust laws are not entirely potent in preventing many of "the destructive, discriminatory, or deceptive, practices of competition" now being indulged, tend to become general under the competitive pressure which they generate," adding:

"They obstruct the sound functioning of the competitive system. They demoralize industry in business. They reduce purchasing power as a result of enforced exploitation of wage earners. They undermine economic stability. They foster the destructive practices and thus preserve the sound functioning of a competitive system," a tribunal should be authorized by provision of the Federal Trade Commission Act to initiate, upon complaint by any part of members of or associations in trade and industry, but subject to review by the courts.

These voluntary agreements would have to be "reasonably necessary to the public interest" and must in no way infringe or transgress "upon the rights of the in the interest of the Government as a contractor and not result in increasing the cost to the Government beyond compensating advantages."

Under the Walsh-Healy Bill the Government is given statutory authority to include in contracts for Government supplies provisions that will eliminate the sweatshop practices mentioned by the Quartermaster General which contractors impose on workers and will require them to observe fair labor conditions.

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ALUMINUM WORKERS HIT SWISS ALUMINUM FOIL

Union Claims "Dumping" by Foreign Nations Injures American Labor.

Pittsburgh, Pa. (AFLNS). — The charge that hundreds of thousands of pounds of aluminum foil, extensively used in the United States, for wrapping, are being dumped into this country from Switzerland was made here by David Williams, president of the National Council of Aluminum Workers and representative of the American Federation of Labor in this district.

In addition to the responsibility for this situation rests with the State Department at Washington because of its failure to uphold American price valuations, and that thousands of American aluminum workers are facing the loss of their jobs if the dumping continues.

Mr. Williams said the declared valuation of Swiss aluminum foil in 1934 was $0.7 cents per pound with shipments aggregating $8,830 pounds. In 1935 Switzerland declared valuation at only 29.2 cents per pound, thus reducing ad valorem duty from 20.8 cents per pound to 8.4 cents per pound, and increasing shipments to 236,911 pounds. In the face of these reductions in valuation the State Department early this year reduced the tariff on the Swiss imports.

Mr. Williams declared that the aluminum foil imported from Switzerland has been selling in American markets at prices below the cost of American production. He said the entire aluminum industry is threatened because of Aluminum Workers is up in arms over the situation which has flooded this country with the output of low-priced foreign labor. He added that he has communicated with President Roosevelt relative to the matter.

Industrial Council Urges High Wage Scales and Lower Prices

Report to Roosevelt Favors Minimum Pay, Production Curb in Emergencies and Permanent Advisory Council—Wants Private Initiative Protected, With Checks Against Social Injustice.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A national program designed to increase consumer buying power was recommended to President Roosevelt in a report adopted by the Council for Industrial Progress, headed by Major George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation. The report was prepared by the Council's Committee on National Industrial Policy.

The committee suggested that the purchasing power of the masses be increased by adequate wage scales, reduction of hours in industry, and lower prices brought about by improvements in the production mechanism and reduction of debt and financial charges.

While upholding the general principles of individual initiative, the profit motive and the competitive system, the committee stressed the necessity for a sufficient amount of Government control over industry "to preserve and protect social justice, equity and fair dealing."

Committee Members

The Committee on Industrial Policy is one of seven groups named by the Council at its recent meeting to consider ship of management and labor. The chairmanship of Mr. Harrison, managing director of the Wholesale Dry Goods Institute, for management, and Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor; Arthur Wharton, president of the International Association of Machinists, and Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, for labor.

Text of Committee Report

Following is the text of the report of the Committee on National Industrial Policy:

"The Committee on National Industrial Policy recognizes that under our form of government it is commonly understood that citizens accepted the widest exercise of freedom to engage in private business and industrial competition with one another, to exercise initiative and enterprise, and, spurred by the incentive of profit, they are accorded the widest degree of freedom to continually modernize and improve their facilities and thus most effectively contribute to the national well being.

Government and Industry

"Nevertheless while the recognition of individual rights, industrial experience and economic facts conclusively show that of the industries has not been fully and completely realized. For this reason, the public welfare demands that that degree of governmental restraint shall be exercised on private industry as will assure its management and ownership to administer business and industry in such a way as to conserve and protect social justice, equity and fair dealing.

"As a result of the speculative boom of 1929, the creeping economic paralysis of the years 1930 to 1933, the continuous and ever-widening circle of unemployment which grew concurrently with these years, and the local control action which developed in our banking system in 1933, all afforded specific and factual evidence to show that private enterprise cannot safely be permitted to administer business and industry entirely free from governmental intervention.

Larger Buying Power Necessary

"It is the opinion of the committee that individual initiative, free competition and the incentive of profit have been the influences which contributed most largely to the industrial development of this Nation, and that every governmental policy should be so formulated as to preserve and protect private enterprise; but it realizes that the affirmation of its belief in the American competitive system does not of itself suffice to justify it.

"The market for the products of industry must depend upon the buying power of the people. It will expand and contract in conformity with the increase and decline of buying power. Consequently, if the competitive system is to be preserved, industry must be so administered as to provide for a return to the people, who constitute the market, of buying and consuming power sufficient to purchase and use the products of industry.

National Income Unwisely Used

"It must be clear that our present economic ills are attributable to the maldistribution and unwise use of the national income; that surplus production and unemployment arise chiefly, if not solely, from the diversion of too great a portion of the national income from the consuming market into the investment field, working injury to capital, to labor, to management and to the general public by depriving the people of buying power, by depriving workers of the opportunity to produce needed goods, by depriving management of production and marketing opportunities, and by causing production facilities to become unusable, destroying their capital value almost in exact proportion to their non-use.

Wages and Prices

"The committee believes, therefore, that the industrial policy of the Nation should now be one designed to increase the buying power of the consuming market through the maintenance of minimum wage scales, the progressive lowering of industrial production costs wherever made possible through cost reductions and technological research or other production improvements, and the reduction of capital and debt structures within industry and increase the cost of goods.

Recommendations

"Upon this background of generalization the committee wishes to impose four simple recommendations.

"1. Industrial Council: The committee declares its belief in an economy of abundance and therefore considers it useless and ineffective to attempt to solve unemployment by the limitation of production, whether imposed by Government or accomplished through voluntary agreements in industry. The committee recommends that under emergency conditions, of instituting production practices that may be necessary to prevent the maldistribution of socially useful values.

"2. Hours and Wages: While recognizing the need to maintain the respective fields of State and Federal authority, the committee believes the policy of a minimum wage in industry and the payment of substantially overtime rates for hours worked in excess of a reasonable work week, believing this to be an effective means of increasing the purchasing power of wage earners, and of re-employment in an are of continuous technological improvement.

"3. Trade Practices: The committee believes that our national industrial policy should give proper recognition to the need for the elimination of those competitive practices which are destructive of the stability that is the basic maintenance of a free and open market for the sale and distribution of goods.

"4. Permanent Advisory Council: The committee believes there should be instituted by the National Government a continuing agency to which reports may come; the source from which it springs, the character of its flow, the uses to which it is put and the forces which cause it to periodically form and flow in unnatural rates of use, causing the stagnation and paralysis of industry and the unemployment and suffering to the people.

"The committee believes this study can be facilitated by the establishment of a permanent advisory economic council consisting equally of representatives of labor, management, of representatives of labor, and of representatives available of fairly representing the interests of the public. It suggests that the President should appoint the members of this council with the advice and consent of the Senate. It suggests that the terms of office of council and members should be appointed each year, to the end that there should be both consistency and fresh viewpoints available to such a council.

"It is suggested that such a council should have a purely advisory function; the committee expresses its conviction that as an independent and representative adviser such a council will have more influence and find more general acceptance than if the powers of such a council should be available for consultation by the President or by the Congress. It should and would be competent to undertake studies and analyses suggested by the President, by the Congress, or upon the proper request of management or labor."

Public Printer Giegengack's Big Job In World's Largest Printing Office

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A few recent achievements of the Government Printing Office in Washington, said to be the largest printing establishment in the world, indicate the tremendous tasks which Public Printer Augustus E. Giegengack is required to execute.

Late one recent Friday afternoon the Treasury Department sent in an order for 16 copies of a form 16 Notice of Tax Appeals with the stipulation that the completed job be ready the following morning. Although the brief made 529 pages, type was set, proofreading and corrections made, and the job printed and delivered on time.

Another recent order was for nine million engraved electrotype plates for bonds and Treasury notes. The order reached the Government Printing Office late in the afternoon of March 3 with the stipulation that sufficient electrotypes be delivered by 9 o'clock the morning of March 4 to start the presses of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. One hundred and five plates were delivered on schedule and the entire 5,400 sheets turned out in 24½ hours from the time the copy was received.

The Bureau of the Census sent in an order for 21,000,000 copies of a card 6 by 4 inches which were to be printed, punched with a hole at the top of the card, and tied in packages of 1,000, making 21,530 separate packages. The order was completed in approximately 36 days.

Then came the Works Progress Administration with an order for 6,750,000 copies of a form 6 by 16 inches printed on seven different colors of paper. These sheets were to be cut into pads of 25 sets each. This rush job was completed February 3 and completed February 20.

But perhaps the most outstanding illustration of Public Printer Giegengack's achievements is the record he did in connection with printing the appropriation bill for the legislative, executive and judicial services. This bill, containing many controversial provisions, was delivered by the conference committee at noon on the day it was passed the Veterans' Administration placed an order for 6,000,000 copies of the appropriation. The first 1,000,000 were delivered and the entire order completed in less than 42 hours after it was received.

In addition to these rush jobs which the Public Printer is required to fill upon receipt, the regular work turned out is enormous. During the last fiscal year the Government Printing Office printed 1,857,152,220 postal cards, 228,157,000 pamphlets, 4,000,000 books and 4,847,444,000 copies of job work, and distributed 429,950,907 publications. The total expenditures paid during this fiscal year amounted to $16,797,879.20.

One of the Public Printer's regular duties during sessions of Congress is printing and distributing 57,000 copies daily of the Congressional Record. Regardless of the number of pages it contains, coupled with the handicap that frequently the copy is not available until midnight, the Record is printed and distributed by 7 o'clock in the morning.